

The Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act of 2007

June 15, 2007

The Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act of 2007, introduced by Senators Dodd and Landrieu, will ensure that families of all income levels can come back to the Gulf Coast, and will help jump-start development in the Gulf. The Bill does the following:

Brings People Home:

- Ensures homeowners in Louisiana can rebuild their homes by authorizing funds to cover the shortfall in the Road Home program.
- Provides former public housing residents the opportunity to come home.
- Provides counseling to families with housing vouchers so they can obtain suitable housing.

Replaces Lost Housing:

- Ensures there is no net loss of affordable housing opportunities by requiring that any public housing or other HUD-assisted housing in the Gulf is replaced.
- Authorizes appropriations for the repair and rehabilitation of public housing in the Gulf Coast.
- Provides additional affordable housing opportunities by authorizing funding for 4,500 supportive housing vouchers, and an additional 1,000 housing units for the homeless.

Creates Homeownership Opportunities:

- Requires FHA to use pre-hurricane credit history in determining a borrower's eligibility for FHA insurance so households who have faced financial difficulties as a result of the storms are still able to become homeowners.
- Requires any properties under HUD's control within the City of New Orleans be transferred to the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority for low-income homeownership opportunities.

Spurs Community Development:

- Provides \$20 million from previously appropriated funds to the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, and \$20 million for other parishes, to acquire land for redevelopment.
- Assists the development of Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects by requiring the Housing Authority of New Orleans to work to provide long term subsidies to help serve low-income families in these developments.

Continues Assistance for Evacuees:

- Requires continued rental assistance for evacuees and transfers funding from FEMA to HUD to provide rental assistance to families still in need of temporary housing.
- Assists families in moving out of unhealthy living environments by authorizing funding for rental assistance for families currently living in FEMA trailers.

Requires Accountability:

- Requires HUD to petition a court for judicial receivership of the troubled Housing Authority of New Orleans, so that the housing agency is an independent partner in redevelopment.
- Requires all states that received emergency federal funds to report on the use of those funds, including information on who is served in each state, and requires HUD to monitor expenditures of emergency funds to prevent waste, fraud and abuse.
- Authorizes funding for fair housing enforcement, to ensure that families are treated fairly and are not subject to discrimination.

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The following organizations have endorsed the Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act:

National Organizations:

ACORN

Addicts Rehabilitation Center Foundation, Inc.

American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

Center for Responsible Lending

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force

Enterprise Community Partners

Institute of Real Estate Management

Jonathan Rose Companies

Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

McCormack Baron Salazar, Inc.

Mortgage Bankers Association

National Affordable Housing Management Association

National Alliance to End Homelessness

National AIDS Housing Coalition

National Apartment Association

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders

National Association of Home Builders

National Association of Realtors

National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD)

National Fair Housing Alliance

NCBA Housing Management Corporation

National Housing Conference

National Housing Law Project

National Housing Trust

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty

National Leased Housing Association

National Low Income Housing Coalition

National Multi Housing Council

National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness

NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

Oxfam America

PolicyLink

Religious Action Center for Reformed Judaism

Technical Assistance Collaborative

Tramell Crow Company

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

US Jesuit Conference
Volunteers of America

Gulf Coast and Regional Organizations:

Acadiana Regional Coalition on Housing & Homelessness (ARCH)
Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice
Alabama Arise
Armstrong Family Services
Catholic Charities, New Orleans
Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities of Mississippi
Florida Legal Services, Inc.
Fresh Start of Baton Rouge
Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, Inc.
Greater Houston Fair Housing Center
Hope for the Homeless, Inc
Hope House
Lake to the River: The New Orleans Coalition for Legal Aid and Disaster Assistance
Last Hope, Inc.
Louisiana Advocacy Coalition for the Homeless
Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations
Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Louisiana Housing Alliance
LA Supportive Housing Coalition
Mental Health America of Louisiana
Mobile Fair Housing Center
NAMI Louisiana
Northeast Louisiana Delta CDC
People Improving Communities Through Organizing - Louisiana Interfaith Together (PICO-LIFT)
Project Lazarus
Providence Community Housing
Shelter Resources, Inc.
Texas Appleseed
UNITY of Greater New Orleans